

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2 and 12-21 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 1 and 3-11.

1. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus ~~having a function of authenticating if image data generated by a self apparatus has not been altered, and a function of authenticating if image data generated by the other apparatus has not been altered~~comprising:

an image data generating unit which generates first image data;

an authentication data generating unit which generates first authentication data; and

an authentication unit which has (a) a first authentication mode where said authentication unit authenticates, using the first authentication data, whether or not the first image data has been altered, and (b) a second authentication mode where said authentication unit authenticates, using second authentication data, whether or not second image data generated by a second imaging apparatus has been altered.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~when authentication data used to authenticate if image data generated by the self apparatus has not been altered is generated, data unique to said imaging apparatus is used~~said authentication data generating unit generates the first authentication data using data unique to said imaging apparatus.

4. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said authentication data generating unit generates the first authentication data using secret data held by said imaging apparatus~~when authentication data used to authenticate if image data generated by the self apparatus has not been altered is generated, secret data held by said imaging apparatus is used.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein~~when authentication data used to authenticate if image data generated by the self apparatus has not been altered is generated, a hash function is used~~said authentication data generating unit generates the first authentication data using a hash function.

6. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein~~when authentication data used to authenticate if image data generated by the self apparatus has not been altered is generated, an arithmetic operation based on a predetermined common key cipher system is made~~said authentication data generating unit generates the first authentication data using a common key cipher.

7. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said authentication unit authenticates, using data unique to the second imaging apparatus, whether or not the second image data generated by the second imaging apparatus has been altered~~when it is authenticated if image data generated by the other apparatus has not been altered, data unique to the other apparatus is used.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~when~~ it is authenticated if ~~image data generated by the other apparatus has not been altered, secret data held by said imaging apparatus is used~~said authentication unit authenticates, using secret data held by said imaging apparatus, whether or not the second image data generated by the second imaging apparatus has been altered.

9. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~when~~ it is authenticated if ~~image data generated by the other apparatus has not been altered, a hash function is used~~said authentication unit authenticates, using a hash function, whether or not the second image data generated by the second imaging apparatus has been altered.

10. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~when~~ it is authenticated if ~~image data generated by the other apparatus has not been altered, an arithmetic operation based on a predetermined common key cipher system is made~~said authentication unit authenticates, using a common key cipher, whether or not the second image data generated by the second imaging apparatus has been altered.

11. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said imaging apparatus ~~comprises~~is one of a digital camera, digital video camera, and scanner.

12-21. (Canceled)